

Grant Will Build Facility to House Inmates Until Permanent Detention Center is Rebuilt; Former Jail Was Destroyed by Katrina

June 4, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that Plaquemines Parish will receive \$21,494,458 in federal disaster funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant will enable the parish to build a semi-permanent detention center to house inmates while the permanent jail is being rebuilt. The former facility was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office has been housing inmates at other detention centers across the region since the storm. *Grant Will Build Facility to House Inmates Until Permanent Detention Center is Rebuilt; Former Jail Was Destroyed by Katrina*

June 4, 2009

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that Plaquemines Parish will receive \$21,494,458 in federal disaster funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grant will enable the parish to build a semi-permanent detention center to house inmates while the permanent jail is being rebuilt. The former facility was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and the Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office has been housing inmates at other detention centers across the region since the storm.

"As Plaquemines Parish continues to recover from Hurricane Katrina, it is vital that we keep criminals off of our streets." Rep. Melancon said. "This federal grant will help the Sheriff's Office keep our communities safe while the permanent detention center is being rebuilt."

Plaquemines Parish Sheriff Jiff Hingle said, "After three, almost four years without a prison facility, we feel great about the progress we are seeing. We are grateful for the support from Congressman Melancon in making this work a reality."

The following federal grant was announced today:

\$21,494,458 for construction of semi-permanent Sheriff's Detention Center in Plaquemines Parish. The grant announced today will reimburse the parish for the cost of constructing a temporary detention center facility. During Hurricane Katrina, storm surge reaching 27-feet completely destroyed the 815-bed Plaquemines Parish Sheriff's Office (PPSO) Detention Center.

Since the 2005 storm, inmates from Plaquemines Parish have been housed at other locations around the country, including the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Prison, which has provided 120 beds for PPSO to use. In the future, however, that space will no longer be available for use by the PPSO. Because of lack of space to incarcerate offenders, PPSO is currently holding 1600 warrants.

Rebuilding the permanent detention facility will take an estimated 4-5 years, so a temporary

detention center is critically needed by the parish.

#